Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04493 041651Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /048 W
----------042116Z 054059 /61
R 041530Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5851
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMCONSUL MUNICH
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4493

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET RESERVISTS HEAR CRITICISM OF GRECHKO

1. AN ESTABLISHED CONTACT -- AN ACTOR WHO IS A RESERVE LIEUTENANT IN SOVIET SIGNAL CORPS/REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY ATTENDED SEVERAL MEETINGS OF REFRESHER TRAINING FOR SOVIET RESERVE OFFICERS. ONE OF THE MEETINGS WAS ADDRESSED BY A GENERAL WHO IS THE DEPUTY COMMANDER OF SIGNAL TROOPS FOR THE MOSCOW MILITARY DISTRICT. THE GENERAL DESCRIBED THE COMBAT READINESS OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES AS DISMALLY LOW. "IF,GOD FORBID, THERE SHOULD BE WAR TOMORROW, NOTHING IS READY FOR IT," HE DECLARED. HE EXPLICITLY PLACED THE BLAME FOR THIS LAMENTABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS ON THE "PREVIOUS COMMAND," I.E., ON FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO.

2. SOURCE CONCEDED THAT MAINTAINING A HIGH STATE OF READINESS MUST BE A DIFFICULT TASK FOR ANY PEACETIME ARMY, BUT HE FELT THAT THE GENERAL'S EXPRESSION OF ALARM SOUNDED QUITE GENUINE AND WAS NOT JUST ANOTHER ROUTINE EFFORT TO AROUSE THE CONCERN OF A GROUP OF UNINTERESTED RESERVISTS. IN SOURCE'S WORDS, "THE GENERAL SOUNDED AS
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THOUGH HE WAS TRULY BESEECHING GOD THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE A MILITARY EMERGENCY ANY TIME SOON." SOURCE ALSO FOUND CRITICISM OF GRECHKO INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL IN CONTEXT OF A RESERVE MEETING, BUT COULD NOT OFFER ANY EXPLANATION BEYOND THE OBVIOUS ONE: THAT A NEW COMMANDER ALWAYS LIKES TO ASSERT AUTHORITY BY FIGHTING CREEPING LAXITY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY TRAINING, DEFAMATION, RESERVE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW04493
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770117-0148
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 2908262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET RESERVISTS HEAR CRITICISM OF GRECHKO
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, UR, (GRECHKO, ANDREY ANTONOVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6b3501ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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